

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2002 LB 1309

program, I've been corrected by Senator Wickersham who says I should call it "PEAPA" because it's not just the Posteducational (sic--Postsecondary Education) Award Program, but it's the Posteducational (sic--Postsecondary Education) Award Program Act. But, at any rate, I'm going to try to restore the cut that the Governor recommended. This is what I go through all the time. The Governor recommended a cut in this program. The Appropriations Committee said, no, we're not going to cut it, but we're going to cut everybody else. We're going to cut public education, but we're not going to cut PEAP. Well, you may beat me down and, by that, I mean get a cloture vote and move the bill, but I'm coming up pretty soon. My amendment is looming on the horizon. I've had the opportunity to rest and refresh myself this afternoon so I feel as though I have not begun to fight today at all, even though I was discussing a few things this morning. I'm going to fight and fight and fight and do all I can to restore the cut the Governor recommended, and if that doesn't work I'm going to try to make deeper cuts. I know there are people who have lobbied the Appropriations Committee. There is a reason they chose to reject the Governor's cut in this area and I speculate all the time about it, but I'm going to take an approach that might seem somewhat different this time from in the past. I'm going to raise the amount of the cut and, as you all get weary of me and become concerned about what will happen not only with this bill but other bills, you may see it as being reasonable to adopt the Governor's cut. It's not that large, but it should be maintained, and I'm using Senator Tyson's bill as the opportunity to alert everybody so not one soul here will feel blindsided. The Speaker told us we'll be here till 7:00 this evening. Well, if I was able to get started now I can easily consume my three hours, but he didn't say we had to stop at 7:00. We can go on. And tomorrow I hope we'll go beyond that because I think there's supposed to be something to honor senators of a particular political party tomorrow. (Laugh) Nothing would give me more pleasure than to interfere with that. But that means I'm going to have to be ready to go all day tomorrow and into the time when that party will take place, so how am I going to be able to do that? Will I be able to sustain the momentum on one amendment? I won't even try. I won't even try, but I will have additional amendments and I will discuss all of them until PEAP bites the dust. Now, I know